TL 5643-1
CIDAC
Centro de Documentação

BRIEFING FOR THE AUSTRALIAN MEDIA BY MR HAYDEN
AT THE RITZ HOTEL, LISBON, 6 SEPTEMBER 1984.

MR HAYDEN. I spoke with the President of Portugal for an hour and a half this afternoon, which is well beyond the time which had been put to one side for this purpose. We spoke almost exclusively about our mutual interest in East Timor. The first thing he said was that Portugal appreciates very much the initiatives Australia has taken to help the people of East Timor, especially in relation to family settlement in Australia and humanitarian aid for East Timorese people in East Timor. He said if there is to be any resolution of the problem in East Timor as he described it, it would have to be acceptable to theEast Timorese people, to the Indonesian people, to the United Nations and to the people of Portugal. He said that Portugal supported the initiatives of the Secretary General of the United Nations to try to bring about some sort of resolution to this issue and said that it was up to United Nations to try to develop some sort of model which was acceptable to the international community which could bring about a satisfactory resolution to the difficulties in the area. I pointed out to the President that Australia supports initiatives of the Secretary General of the United Nations. We encourage them. We endorse what he's done to this point. We encourage further dialogue on this matter and in a

few weeks' time when I'm in New York at the United Nations I will be talking to the Secretary General of the United Nations and to Dr Mochtar on this matter. It is quite apparent that this is the first round of many rounds of talks which will take place on this matter.

Q. In the end Mr Hayden is it a reality that whatever Indonesia wants will happen?

MR HAYDEN I think the reality is as I said before that Indonesia has absorbed East Timor into Indonesia. We've expressed great concern about that and particularly at the fact that there had not been an act of self-determination internationally-supervised but the facts are that Indonesia has made it abundantly clear that she does not accept that view that she believes that East Timor has been absorbed into Indonesia according to a properly act of self-determination and that that is not irreversible process as far as she is concerned. Now they are facts as stated by the Indonesians as they see them. It does not change the fact about the situation however from being a very complex one, one requiring a great deal of attention from the parties who are concerned about this. Australia happens to be one of those parties.

Q. What's the main thing that you would want to achieve from this visit?

MR HAYDEN Well I think the only things that I could expect to achieve at this point is a better understanding of where the Portuguese people are on this and perhaps to get

a focus but a ~~very~~ ~~broad~~ ~~forward~~ it would be a very broad focus at this stage. I expect on where the direction might be taken up that might lead to a resolution of the problem and that focus will still be broad when I speak with the Secretary General of the United Nations in New York and also Dr Mochtar the Foreign Minister of Indonesia . The Indonesians are adamant that as far as they are concerned East Timor has been incorporated into Indonesia according to a properly conducted act of self-determination.

Q. What role does Portugal possibly have to play in reality,

← Mr Hayden. Well I can't tell you much more than what I've told you. I'm sorry. That's about as far as I can go at this stage.

← Q. Indonesia

← Mr. Hayden But tomorrow I might be able to say a bit more after I've seen the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister.

← Q. Indonesia says says that they have absorbed East Timor "de facto" . Portugal says "de jure" ~~they~~ that they still have a role to play in East Timor. To which side are we closer?

← Mr Hayden. Indonesia says they have absorbed East Timor into Indonesia "de jure". Now Portugal makes some claim to being the colonial power in respect of East Timor and therefore we have a stalemate in terms of perceptions between the two countries and as far as Australia is concerned we are committed to encouraging any international efforts

~~a stalemate as far as a perception between the two countries and as far as Australia is concerned we are committed to encouraging any international efforts~~ which look as though they would be productive in the sense of looking after the East Timorese people/their best interests, and in particular initiatives by the Secretary General of the UN designed, and which would clearly move in the direction of a satisfactory resolution of this problem. Now at this stage all we're prepared to say is we support the initiatives of the Secretary General of the United Nations with the encouragement to go as far as he can to bring some sort of friuitful conclusion to those initiatives.

Q. Does it look to you as though the United Nations debate will be postponed again this year?

Mr HaydenWell I have no idea. I haven't spoken to the Secretary General. Sorry I can't tell you any more but that's about all there is to it.

Q. Mr Hayden could you comment on on the letter that 20 MPs sent ...

Mr Hayden That's from the Amnesty group in Parliament? Have we got the letter there? What the Amnesty letter calls for, the Parliamentary Amnesty group is that I should press for a joint Portuguese-Australian initiative directed at winning more support for the UN Secretary General to consult with a range of people on this issue . Well all I'm prepared to say at this stage is I'll be talking to the Secretary General of the United Nations about his initiative and how far it's gone and I've certainly spoken on that topic with the President today. Obviously we would urge as much support as we could for those initiatives. However,

decisions on what Governments are going to do are taken finally by Governments. We listen with a great deal of respect to the views of Amnesty and in particular the Australian Parliamentary group of Amnesty. The final decision is taken by the Governemnt.

Q. Reports have filtered through to this part of the world that these letters have embarrassed you and compromised your talks here.

Mr Hayden. I think sometimes journalists put a little stud in the belt here and there and sort of give it a bit of embellishment. And then they strike you with it

Q. Do they - that hasn't changed since you left home

Q. Honestly weren't aware that these letters were beeing semnt?

Mr Hayden. I have had several letters. I suspect one of them here that came from the Memberrs of Parliament, probably the one that Gordon Macintosh brought around to me a couple of weeks ago, was it? No they are coming all the time . The Amnesty one I was not aware of but I am not surprised by it . It's moderately expressed , I have no problems in responding to it.

Q. Do you get the impression that what you will hear tomorrow will be different is very different from what you've heard today . In that sense is the Presidency and the rest of the government very different?

Mr Hayden.. But I had not spoken to the people I am going to speak to tomorrow. I am a bit behind in my timetable